

Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research Update



*For the Joint Meeting of the
Board of Scientific Advisors &
National Cancer Advisory Board*

Jennifer A. Pietenpol, Ph.D.
June 25th, 2012



NCI-Frederick

- **Established in 1972**, designated as a Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDC) in 1975 – minimized barriers to non-federal partners; government-owned and contractor-operated
- **Mission:** Pursue innovative basic, applied and translational research leveraging technical expertise, physical infrastructure, and FFRDC status
- **Majority of focus is cancer research (NCI)** with some usage by NIAID (~16%) for research on infectious disease
- **Main research areas currently:** clinical trials support, drug development, vaccine development and genomics



Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research (FNLCR)



Under Dr. Varmus' leadership:

- NCI participation in SAIC search and recruitment of David Heimbrook, Ph.D. as CEO of SAIC-Frederick in June 2011
- Established first external advisory board to review state of research on Frederick campus, as per recommendation of NCAB special report in 2010 - to give greater attention to activities at NCI-Frederick
- Designated facility as Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research





NCI-Frederick Advisory Committee (NFAC)

- **NFAC charge** - review the state of research at FNLCR and make recommendations for the best use of its capabilities and infrastructure
- **15 member committee**



Zachary Hall, Ph.D.
Former Director, NINDS
Former President; Institute of
Regenerative Medicine, UCSF
Emeritus Professor, UCSF

Chair



C. Barrett



D. Botstein



L. Garraway



J. Gray



B. Hahn



M. Justice



T. Look



L. Marnett



J. Mesirov



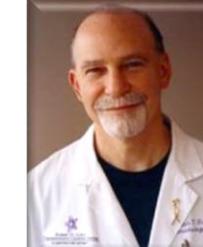
G. Nolan



K. Olden



J. Pietenpol



S. Rosen



C. Willman



NCI-Frederick Advisory Committee (NFAC)

Organization meeting, August 31st, 2012

First meeting, January 21st, 2012

- **Develop a process for approval, prioritization and scientific oversight of contactor-CRADA projects**
- **Update on website development**
- **Establish program(s) to allow extramural investigators to learn about and use FNLCR advanced technologies and capabilities**
- **Develop a strategic plan to guide direction & activities**





NCI-Frederick Advisory Committee (NFAC)

Second meeting, May 30th, 2012

- Opening of the Advanced Technology Research Facility (ATRF)
- Update on partnership efforts with Contractor-CRADA process at FNLCR



Request to examine process for scientific review/prioritization

- FNLCR Visiting Scholars Program (VSP) developed
- Beginning of Strategic Discussions

VSP
Visiting Scholars Program (VSP)

- VSP Home
- Opportunities
- Eligibility & Funding
- Application
- Selection
- Contact Us
- Receive Updates
- About the Laboratory

Home: Visiting Scholars Program

Visiting Scholars Program (VSP)

The Visiting Scholars Program (VSP) is a unique opportunity for scientists to access the intellectual capital and state-of-the-art facilities of the only federal national laboratory in the United States devoted exclusively to biomedical research, the Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research (formerly NCI-Frederick).

Consistent with our training mission, we invite early-career or established investigators, either within or outside the cancer research community. The duration and purpose of the visit to the Frederick National Laboratory can vary, but it is intended to facilitate collaboration or enhance career development. The engagement at Frederick may be part of a research effort to address persistent barriers that have long impeded progress against cancer and AIDS. Or the purpose could be tied to addressing new challenges, such as those posed by the [NCI Director's Provocative Questions](#).

Visiting Scholars will be integrated with teams of scientists at the Frederick National Laboratory who:

- support basic studies in the biological mechanisms of cancer and AIDS;
- conduct translational research leading to new diagnostic and therapeutic approaches; and
- advance preclinical studies leading to first-in-human clinical trials.

We encourage scientists to explore our [Visiting Scholar Opportunities](#) and submit an [Expression of Interest](#).

There are other NCI-sponsored visitor programs outside the Frederick National Laboratory VSP. For further information go to:

- [Center for Cancer Research](#)
- [Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics](#)



Strategic Directions

Expanding the Discussion

Working Sub-Groups recommendations (part I)

- **Optimize the use of FNLCR by NCI Divisions, Offices and Centers**
- *Carl Barrett**, Rick Borchelt, John Czajkowski, Jim Doroshow, Ed Harlow, Jeff Strathern, Bob Wiltrout
- **Expand use of the FNLCR by other ICs, agencies, external investigators; build capabilities to do things things that are not done elsewhere** - *Rick Borchelt, John Czajkowski, Jim Doroshow, Levi Garraway**, Ed Harlow, Bob Wiltrout
- **Expand interactions between NCI and industry through ATRF and contract mechanisms** - *Carl Barrett**, Sara Courtneidge, John Czajkowski, Jim Doroshow, Bob Wiltrout, Bob Wittes

**NFAC Committee Member*





Strategic Directions

Expanding the Discussion

Working Sub-Groups recommendations (part II)

- **Structural changes: identify critical improvement to remove hazards; campus upgrades and redesigns when affordable** - *Rick Borchelt, John Czajkowski, Kevin Cullin, Jeff Strathern, Bob Wiltrout*
- **Enhance Communications with NIH, DHHS, and extramural researchers who can benefit from FNLCR** - *Rick Borchelt, John Czajkowski, Doug Lowy, Anne Lubenow, Bob Wittes*
- **Expand and coordinate education and training programs** - *Rick Borchelt, John Czajkowski, Kevin Cullin, Jim Doroshov, Doug Lowy, Jeff Strathern, Jonathan Wiest, Bob Wiltrout*
- **Opportunity to rapidly advance new initiatives** – NFAC suggested pursuit of "big idea(s)" – would have significant impact on cancer control



Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research

Summary of Discussions

Defining Characteristics of FNLCR

- **Unique combination of scientific expertise;** breadth of operational capacity to serve all aspects of applied biology – from basic to FDA regulatory environment
- **Agile;** adapt rapidly to changes in NCI priorities
- **Special relationships;** integrate government agencies, extramural, and industry partners
- **Gateway to government assistance;** access to technologies, contractor expertise, project management





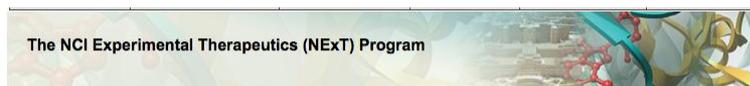
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Summary of Discussions

Operational pillars at FNLCR

- Integrated resources
- Support for Product/Project Development
- Training and Education
- Partnership facilitation

Examples



Visiting Scholars Program (VSP)





Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research

Conclusions

- **Designation as a National Laboratory**
- **Opportunity to be strategic** in future directions and activities in order to meet the demands of the national cancer program
- **A facility to enable technology and resource development and deployment to cancer research community;** amplifying effect on science in the intramural, extramural and private sector communities through creative ventures
- **Site for external community participation** – educational programs leveraging top-notch research programs
- **Opportunity to rapidly advance new bold initiatives** – NFAC suggested pursuit of "big idea(s)" - lead to significant advances in cancer prevention, treatment or control



Discussion